NOMURA et al.
Appl. No. 09/892,747
Response to Office Action dated May 18, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended):   A program supply method for transmitting a program from a server via a network to a user system, comprising:

transmitting an operating environment of the user system from the user system via the network to the server before supplying the program;

judging whether the program is operable or not in the operating environment, and transmitting a result of the judgment from the server via the network to the user system; ~~and~~

executing the program on the user system after the program is supplied from the server and installed on the user system to thereby confirm <u>proper</u> operation of the program<u>; and</u>

<u>after confirming proper operation by executing the program on the user system, requesting payment for the program</u>.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented):   The program supply method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising displaying the result of the judgment as to whether the program is operable or not in the operating environment of the user system.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented):   The program supply method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising transmitting an order for the program from the user system via the network to the server when the program is judged to be operable.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented):   The program supply method set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

generating a program list made up of programs which can be supplied from the server;

transmitting the program list from the server via the network to the user system; and

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selecting a program from the program list.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented):   The program supply method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

generating by the server a program list made up of programs which can be operated in the operating environment of the user system;

transmitting the program list from the server via the network to the user system; and

selecting a program from the program list.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented):   The program supply method set forth in claim 1, further comprising storing the result of the judgment as data of the user system in the server when the program is judged to be inoperable.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented):   The program supply method set forth in claim 1, further comprising expanding functions of the user system in which a program supplied from the server via the network to the user system is installed.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended):   A program supply method, comprising:

receiving by a server an order for a program via a network from a user system;

transmitting a program in response to the order via the network to the user system; ~~and~~

executing, in the user system, the transmitted program to thereby confirm proper operation of the program; and

requesting payment ~~asking a user to pay~~ for the program after proper operation of the program has been confirmed by execution ~~confirming that the program is operable~~ in the user system.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented):   The program supply method set forth in claim 8, further comprising requesting the user system by the server to inform the server of an operating environment via the network.

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Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The program supply method set forth in claim 8, further comprising generating by the server a program list made up of programs which are operable in the user system and which can be provided by the server, and providing the program list via the network to the user system.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The program supply method set forth in claim 8, further comprising storing by the server of an operating environment of the user system.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A program supply system which supplies programs from a server via a network to a user system,

wherein:

said user system includes operating environment judging means for judging an operating environment of the user system, and before having a program supplied, transmits the judged operating environment via the network to the server,

said server includes operation judging means for judging whether the program is operable or not in the received operating environment, and transmits a result of the judgment as to whether the program is operable or not via the network to the user system, ~~and~~

said user system executes ~~is operable to execute~~ the program after the program is supplied from the server and installed on the user system to thereby confirm <u>proper</u> operation of the program<u>, and</u>

<u>if the program is thereafter confirmed to operate on the user system, said server requests payment therefor from said user system.</u>

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said user system includes:

operation input means to be operated by a user; and

display means for displaying data,

said user system is activated in response to operation on the operation input means, and the user system transmits the operating environment judged by the operation environment

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judging means via the network to the server, and displays the result of the judgment given by the operation judging means of the server on the display means.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented):   The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said user system orders the program to the server when the result of the judgment received from the server indicates that the program is operable.

Claim 15 (Original):   The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said server further includes storing means for storing data of the user system.

Claim 16 (Original):   The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said user system expands its functions when a program supplied via the network from the server is installed.

Claim 17 (Original):   The program supply system set forth in claim 12, wherein said user system is any of a personal computer, a portable terminal, and a complex digital image forming apparatus.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented):   The program supply system set forth in claim 13, wherein:
        said server further includes list generating means for generating a program list made up of programs which can be supplied to the user system, and transmits the program list via the network to the user system, and
        said user system displays the program list on the display means, and selects a program from the program list according to operation on the operation input means.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented):   The program supply system set forth in claim 13, wherein:

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said server further includes list generating means for generating a program list made up of programs which are operable in the operating environment of the user system, and transmits the program list via the network to the user system, and

said user system displays the program list on the display means and selects a program from the program list according to operation on the operation input means.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented):   The program supply system set forth in claim 15, wherein said server stores the result of the judgment by the operation judging means when the program is judged to be inoperable.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended):   A program supply system which supplies programs from a server via a network to a user system,

wherein:

said user system includes:

operating environment judging means for judging an operating environment of the user system; and

user-side communication means for transmitting data to and receiving data from the server via the network,

said server includes:

server-side communication means for transmitting data to and receiving data from the user system via the network; and

operation judging means for judging whether a program can be operated or not in the operating environment of the user system received via the server-side communication means; and further wherein

said user system is operable to execute the program after the program is supplied from the server and installed on the user system to thereby confirm <u>proper</u> operation of the program<u>, and</u>

<u>upon confirmation of the proper operation of the program, said server requests said user system for payment for the program.</u>

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Claim 22 (Currently Amended):   A program supply system which transmits a program in response to an order received via a network from a user system to the user system via the network, comprising:

server-side operation judging means for confirming an operation state of the program in the user system; and

accounting means for asking a user to pay for the program after a first execution confirming the operation of the program.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended):   A program receiving method, comprising:

transmitting by a user system an order for a program via a network to a server;

receiving the program in response to the order from the server via the network;

executing confirming operation of the program to thereby confirm proper operation thereof; and

transmitting a notification of operation confirmation via the network to the server so as to allow the server to confirm the proper an operation state of the program.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended):   A program receiving apparatus for receiving a program from a server via a network, comprising:

user-side operation judging means for executing the received program, thereby confirming proper operation of the program; and

operation confirmation notification transmitting means for, upon the user-side operation judging means executing the received program, transmitting a notification of operation confirmation to the server so as to allow the server to confirm the proper an operation state of the program.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended):   A program transmitting receiving system, comprising:

a program supply system comprising:

server-side operation judging means for confirming an operation state of the program in the user system; and

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accounting means for asking a user to pay for the program after confirming the operation of the program;

a program receiving apparatus comprising:

user-side operation judging means for <u>executing the program, thereby</u> confirming <u>proper</u> operation of the program; and

operation confirmation notification transmitting means for<u>, upon executing the program,</u> transmitting a notification of operation confirmation to the server so as to allow the server to confirm <u>the proper</u> a̶n̶ operation state of the program; and

wherein the program supply system and the program receiving apparatus are connected to each other via a network.

Claim 26 (Original):   A computer-readable recording medium having a program for executing the program receiving method of claim 1 recorded thereon.

Claim 27 (Original):   A computer-readable recording medium having a program for executing the program receiving method of claim 23 recorded thereon.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended):   The program supply method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending a confirmation to the server if the <u>proper</u> operation of the program is confirmed by the executing.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended):   The program supply system of claim 12, wherein said user system is further operable to send a confirmation to the server if the <u>proper</u> operation of the program is confirmed by the execution.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended):   The program supply system of claim 21, wherein said user system is further operable to send a confirmation to the server if the <u>proper</u> operation of the program is confirmed by the execution.

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Claim 31 (Previously Presented):   A method performed by a user system to obtain a program from a server, comprising:

sending to the server operating environment data of the user system;

receiving from the server a list of programs that is generated based on the operating environment data;

sending to the server a request for one of the programs selected from the list;

receiving the selected program from the server;

installing the received program;

executing the installed program to confirm its operation; and

sending to the server a notification regarding the confirmation of operation.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented):   The method of claim 31, further comprising:

receiving a request for payment for the program from the server after the sending of notification.